

Georgia NPL/NPL Caliber Cleanup Site Summaries

Robins Air Force Base

EPA ID: GA1570024330

Warner Robins, Houston County, GA

Congressional District: 08

NPL Status: Proposed: 10/15/84; Final 07/22/87

[Project Manager](#)

Site Background:

Robins AFB is a 868 acre facility, about fifty miles south west of Macon. It is a repair and maintenance facility, part of the Air Force's Material Command, and it employs over 18,000 people in middle Georgia. The NPL site at Robins consists of a 45 acre landfill and an integral 1.5 acre sludge lagoon. After a basewide survey in 1982, Landfill number 4, and the sludge lagoon were judged to have the highest potential for migration of hazardous substances and consequently were placed on the NPL in 1987. This listing of the landfill and sludge lagoon included groundwater and wetlands impacted by contamination from the landfill and sludge lagoon. The rest of the facility is regulated under the delegated State RCRA Corrective Action Authority. Landfill number four was operated from 1965 to 1978 for disposal of general refuse and industrial wastes. It is suspected that ordinance and agent orange could also be in the landfill. The sludge lagoon was operated from 1962 to 1978 for the disposal of sludges from the Industrial Waste Treatment Plant. This sludge contained phenols, oils, heavy metals, and cyanide. Miscellaneous industrial wastes, such as solvents, cleaner, paint removers, hydraulic fluids and oils were also placed in the lagoon. The sludge lagoon and

landfill were closed in 1978, by capping with a clayey sand cover approximately 5 feet thick and 6 inches thick, respectively. Over time the cover on the landfill had been eroded to non-existence in some parts, and in addition, wild pigs had dug into several areas of the landfill and sludge lagoon.

Cleanup Progress: Actual Construction Underway

An Interim Record of Decision (ROD) was signed in 1991 for containment of the landfill and sludge lagoon (OU1). The remedial actions were completed in 1998, and consisted of: construction of run-on controls, a RCRA cap for the Landfill, vapor extraction and solidification of the sludge lagoon, and a leachate collection system. An Interim ROD was signed in 1993, for a pump and treat system to contain the ground water plume (OU3) and an Interim ROD was signed in 1996, for monitoring of the wetlands (OU2), with a contingency action for removals and new weirs to reduce the contaminant sediment flow into other areas of the wetlands. All remedial actions for the Interim RODs were completed by 1999.

A final ROD for operable units one and three, was drafted in 2001, and signed by GA EPD, and the Air Force in June 2001. EPA could not concur on this ROD, because the land use control language waived enforceability by EPA. Because the Air Force had stated that EPA did not have post ROD authority, EPA could not concur on the ROD. This has not had an effect on final remediation, since the OU1 ROD was for No Further Action, and the OU3 ROD was for some changes in the pump and treat system that were made in 2001. A Five Year Review report was drafted jointly by EPA and by Robins AFB. It was completed in May 2000. A final ROD for the wetlands is anticipated for 2003, which will require "hot spot" removals from accessible areas of the wetlands.